

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) An archwire assembly for orthodontic braces comprising:

an archwire;

a crimpable sleeve adapted to slidably move along said archwire; and

a friction-creating substance on at least one of said crimpable sleeve and said archwire, said friction-creating substance adapted to prevent said crimpable sleeve from falling off said archwire by movement of said sleeve along said archwire under the weight of said sleeve when said sleeve is uncrimped.

10. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 9 further comprising first and second removable stops, said crimpable sleeve positioned between said first and second removable stops.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 10 wherein said archwire has first and second free ends, and said first and second removable stops are positioned adjacent said first and second free ends.

13. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 10 wherein said first and second removable stops are movable along said archwire.

14. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 13 wherein said first and second removable stops are movable along said archwire only after applying a sliding force greater than the weight of said crimpable sleeve.

15. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 14 wherein the sliding force is approximately equal to one half pound.

16. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 9 wherein said friction-creating substance at least partially fills said crimpable sleeve.

17. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 9 wherein said friction-creating substance at least partially coats said archwire.

18. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 9 wherein said friction-creating substance is removable.

19.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) An archwire assembly for orthodontic braces comprising:

an archwire;

a crimpable sleeve adapted to slidably move along said archwire; and

a stop on at least one of said archwire and said crimpable sleeve, said stop adapted to prevent said crimpable sleeve from falling off said archwire by movement of said sleeve along said archwire under the weight of said sleeve when said sleeve is uncrimped.

31. (Original) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said stop is removable.

32. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said stop is movable along said archwire.

33. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said stop is selected from the group consisting of elastic O-rings, slotted collars, spring-loaded stops, resilient bands, friction-creating substances, discrete amounts of polymeric material, discrete amounts of organic material, discrete amounts of wax, and combinations thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of making an archwire assembly comprising:

applying a crimpable sleeve to an archwire, at least one of the crimpable sleeve and the archwire having a friction-creating substance applied thereto; and
using the friction-creating substance to prevent ~~preventing~~ the crimpable sleeve from falling off the archwire by movement of the sleeve along the archwire under the weight of the sleeve when the sleeve is uncrimped.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

packaging the archwire assembly for delivery to a doctor's office.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of using an archwire assembly in combination with a plurality of orthodontic brackets applied to a plurality of teeth, the archwire assembly comprising an archwire, a crimpable sleeve mounted on the archwire, and a ~~step~~
friction-creating substance on at least one of the crimpable sleeve and the archwire
adapted to prevent the crimpable sleeve from falling off the archwire by movement of the sleeve along the archwire under the weight of the sleeve when the sleeve is

uncrimped, comprising:

applying the plurality of orthodontic brackets to the plurality of teeth;
securing the archwire assembly to the plurality of orthodontic brackets;

and

removing the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance from the at least one of the crimpable sleeve and the archwire.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 further comprising:

crimping the crimpable sleeve to secure the crimpable sleeve to the archwire at a fixed position.

41.-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein removing the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance comprises dissolving the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein dissolving the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance comprises rinsing the at least one of the crimpable sleeve and archwire with water.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein dissolving the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance comprises allowing saliva to dissolve the ~~step~~ friction-creating substance.

48. (Previously Presented) An archwire assembly for orthodontic braces comprising:

an archwire;

a crimpable sleeve adapted to slidably move along said archwire; and

a friction-creating substance applied to at least one of said crimpable sleeve and said archwire, said friction-creating substance adapted to limit movement of said crimpable sleeve along said archwire,

wherein said friction-creating substance is selected from the group consisting of waxes, sugar compounds, starches, elastomeric materials, organic materials, and polymeric materials.

49. (Previously Presented) An archwire assembly for orthodontic braces comprising:

an archwire;

a crimpable sleeve adapted to slidably move along said archwire; and

a friction-creating substance applied to at least one of said crimpable sleeve and said archwire, said friction-creating substance adapted to limit movement of said crimpable sleeve along said archwire,

wherein said friction-creating substance is water soluble.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 34 further comprising:

removing the friction-creating substance while the sleeve is positioned on the archwire.

51. (Previously Presented) A method of using an archwire assembly in combination with a plurality of orthodontic brackets applied to a plurality of teeth, the archwire assembly comprising an archwire, a crimpable sleeve mounted on the archwire, and a stop adapted to limit movement of the crimpable sleeve along the archwire, comprising:

applying the plurality of orthodontic brackets to the plurality of teeth;

securing the archwire assembly to the plurality of orthodontic brackets;

and

removing the stop from the archwire through dissolution.

52. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 9 wherein said crimpable sleeve is movable along said archwire in an uncrimped condition only after applying a sliding force greater than the weight of said crimpable sleeve.

53. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 52 wherein the sliding force is approximately equal to one half pound.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said crimpable sleeve is movable along said archwire in an uncrimped condition only after applying a sliding force greater than the weight of said crimpable sleeve.

56. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 55 wherein the sliding force is approximately equal to one half pound.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said stop is on the crimpable sleeve.

59. (Previously Presented) The archwire assembly of claim 30 wherein said stop is on the archwire.